

Government is closely monitoring the situation to take appropriate action, if any needed.

(c) To protect the interests of the cotton growers, the Government announces Minimum Support Price (MSP) of *kapas* (seed cotton). Whenever the market prices of *kapas* touch the MSP, the Cotton Corporation of India Ltd.(CCI) undertakes Support Price Operation and purchases *kapas* at MSP, without any quantitative limit, in all cotton growing States (except in Maharashtra where the Raw Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme of State Government is in operation). The loss, if any, incurred on account of support price operation is reimbursed to the CCI by the Government. Therefore, the question of loss to the cotton growers or the procurement agency does not arise.

(d) The Government has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton to improve the productivity and quality of cotton as well as lowering the cost of cultivation.

EMAS for export of diversified jute products

1196. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it was decided to restructure the External Market Assistance Scheme for export of diversified jute products;

(b) whether a study on the operation of the EMAS was undertaken;

(c) if so, the outcome of the study and by when the new policy will be formulated; and

(d) the measures taken to assist jute growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It was decided by the Jute Manufacturers Development Council (JMDC) to restructure the External Market Assistance (EMA) Scheme for export of diversified jute products. For this purpose, a study was undertaken by the JMDC to evaluate the contribution of EMA Scheme in export of jute goods.

(c) The study recommended the continuation of the EMA Scheme

with thrust on enhanced exports. A new policy was formulated which came into effect from 1st April 2000. At present, the scheme is reviewed annually by the JMDC, keeping in view the market conditions, and extended with suitable modifications.

(d) In order to assist jute growers, Government declares Minimum Support Price of raw jute/mesta every year. In addition, Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory use in packing commodities) Act, 1987, provides for compulsory packaging of certain commodities in jute packaging material, which helps jute growers in marketing their produce. A Centrally sponsored Scheme on Special Jute Development Programme was in operation from 1992-93. This scheme since, October 2000 has been subsumed under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture providing flexibility to State Governments to take up need-based programmes.

New scheme for weavers

1197. Shrimati BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have formulated any new scheme for weavers in the country during the year 2001-2002;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the necessary steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) The Government has not formulated any new scheme for Handloom Weavers in the country during the year 2001-2002.

(b) to (d) The reasons for not formulating any new scheme for handloom weavers during the current financial year are that generally no new scheme is formulated in the last year of the plan and that the Union Government had formulated and launched a comprehensive and integrated scheme for handloom weavers called the Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana (DDHPY) only a year ago, i.e. in the year 2000-2001 with a budget provision of Rs.93.95 crore for the